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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicants respectfully direct the Examiner's

attention to Japan 7-225661, which is listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. A copy of Japan 7-225661 is enclosed. Also, an English-language abstract for Japan 7-225661 has been located and is enclosed.

Japan 7-225661 was cited in an Office Action for a Japanese application corresponding to the above-identified application. A copy of the Japanese Office Action, which is dated October 6, 2003, is enclosed.

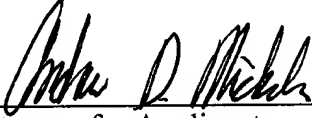
In view of the date of the Japanese Office Action, it is hereby certified under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) that the document cited in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing date of this Information Disclosure Statement.

This application has received an Office Action on the merits but has not yet received either a final action or a Notice Of Allowance. Accordingly, this Information Disclosure Statement is filed under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c). In view of the statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) made above, consideration of the art cited herein is accordingly deemed proper, and such action is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is urged to study this information in its entirety and to form an independent determination of the materiality of the information to the claimed invention. Additionally, the Examiner is requested to indicate that this information has been considered by initialing the appropriate portion of Form PTO-1449.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



Attorney for Applicants

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